

Filed for intro on 05/24/2001

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 375

By Crowe

A RESOLUTION To honor the memory of Clayton F. Slagle of
Carter County.

WHEREAS, The members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the death of Clayton F. Slagle; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Slagle was an exemplary public servant and consummate professional who worked assiduously to improve the quality of life for his fellow citizens in numerous capacities; and

WHEREAS, Clayton Slagle served with acumen and alacrity as the owner and operator of Slagle's Tires, in which position he earned the respect of his peers and his customers alike for the exemplary quality of his work and his fairness and integrity as a businessman; and

WHEREAS, Born July 2, 1923, to Claude and Della Slagle, Clayton Slagle developed at an early age a passionate love of bluegrass music, a love which grew and flourished until his death on May 3, 2001; and

WHEREAS, His mission to bring bluegrass music to the masses began in his old country store, where he allowed numerous unknown bands to perform, giving them the opportunity to display their talents and play in front of an audience; and

WHEREAS, In 1969, when his little store could no longer contain the crowd, he told his family that he needed more room to showcase his bluegrass music; at that moment, he decided that it was "time to get rid of the cows" and open what is now known as "Slagle's Pasture"; and

WHEREAS, In June of 1970, Clayton Slagle's dream became a reality; with the help and support of his family, he held the first Barn Dance and Fiddler's Convention in the bottom of his pasture, with an overflowing crowd in attendance; and

WHEREAS, Emboldened by his success and eager to expand his vision, Mr. Slagle set out to organize his own Bluegrass Festival, building a stage and, later, a restaurant, and the rest, as they say, is history: Slagle's Pasture Bluegrass Festival had been born; professional bluegrass musicians graced his stage and ate at his table; and

WHEREAS, Those who knew Clayton Slagle knew that he loved his family above and beyond anything else; they also knew that when election time rolled around, he was the one they wanted in their corner--hosting political forums in the field and providing entertainment for the crowd; and

WHEREAS, A benevolent and generous man, Mr. Slagle was always willing to donate the field to benefit the community and he often rented out his land to his fellow citizens for family and class reunions; and

WHEREAS, During his grandchildren's school years, Clayton Slagle paid for meals for busloads of children; when the school's ball team went to the state tournament in Knoxville, he supplied tires for the coaches' cars, meals, and spending money for some of the players to ensure equality among all of the players; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Slagle leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life, and diligence and dedication in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, It would be impossible to compile a list of the countless good deeds and good works Clayton Slagle performed: he gave coal to needy families and opened up his home to those who had fallen on hard times, never asking for anything in return; and

WHEREAS, Clayton Slagle touched the lives of many people; he lived and died his dream--making people happy to the tune of bluegrass music; and

WHEREAS, It is fitting that this General Assembly should pause to remember the bountiful life of this exceptional public servant and human being; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, That we honor the memory of Clayton F. Slagle, reflecting fondly upon his impeccable character, his many contributions to Bluegrass music and to his community, and his stalwart commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family of Mr. Slagle.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.